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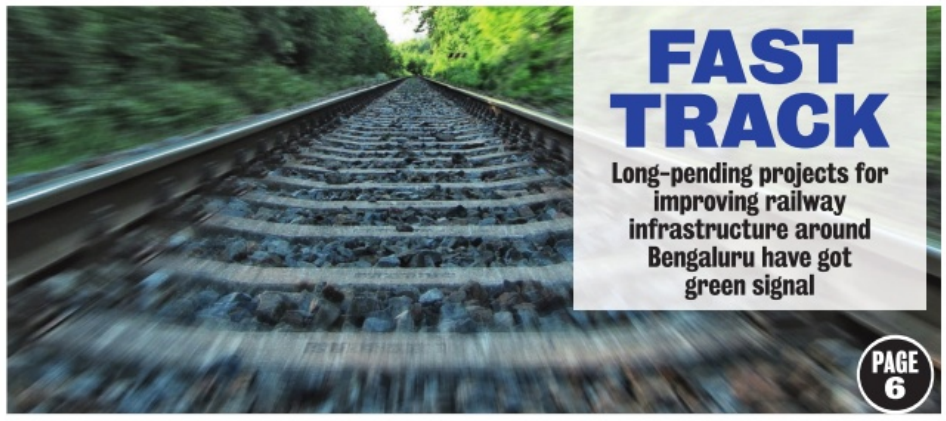
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 22 | Humidity 81% Partly Cloudy Sensex 80,436 | Nifty 24,541 | Gold 71,395 | Silver 83,256 | Dollar 83.88 | Euro 92.53 | GBP 108.57

DIG DEAL

PG owner faces music for digging up road to create channel for sewage to be dumped into drain

PAGE 5



FAST TRACK

Long-pending projects for improving railway infrastructure around Bengaluru have got green signal

PAGE 6

Volunteers engaged in weekly clean-up drives; locals repeatedly followed up with officials — but apathy of civic agencies have reduced Gottigere Lake into cesspool

ALL EFFORTS DROWN IN MUCKED UP LAKE

Sewage enters lake as rejuvenation work taken up in 2022 not moving

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For years, residents of the areas around Gottigere Lake had taken it upon themselves to make sure their lake remains clean and unsullied. Volunteers would give up their Sundays to engage in the task of cleaning the lake up. All that has come to a naught as the condition of the lake today is dismayingly dirty.

The unhygienic and nauseating condition of the lake can become a case study in the negligence, callous attitude, inefficiency and apathy of the authorities concerned. Residents of Gottigere have been running pillar to post for more than a decade appealing to authorities concerned to rejuvenate and improve the situation of the lake, but the inaction has brought it to the brink.

The residents used to volunteer to clear the lake on every Sunday, armed with weeding forks and ropes for many years. Bangalore Mirror reported about this in our story – Citizens get down, dirty – on January10, 2018. Hundreds of residents, including children,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

“We have been suffering a lot due to the delay in restoration of the lake. With sewage flowing into the lake, it has become a breeding place for mosquitoes

— Ali Asgar, Bora Layout resident

Oh shoot, there’s a slight delay

BBMP’s indoor air gun shooting training centre has not yet opened its doors as it doesn’t have trainers

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All the equipment has been installed, but there are no trainers — This is the frustrating reality at the BBMP Indoor Air Gun Shooting Training Centre in Vidyapeeth Ward, Basavanagudi. Fully equipped with top-notch air pistol and air rifle gear, the facility was set to be a game-changer for aspiring shooters in the city. Yet, after its completion, the centre remains unopened, leaving young athletes and their parents in a state of limbo.

The BBMP Sports Complex, which houses the shooting centre, was constructed at a cost of 7 crore and was intended to foster the next generation of Indian shooting talent. The ground floor, dedicated to shooting training, boasts of equipment worth around 1 crore, meticulously installed and ready for use. But without qualified trainers, the doors to this promising facility have remained firmly shut.

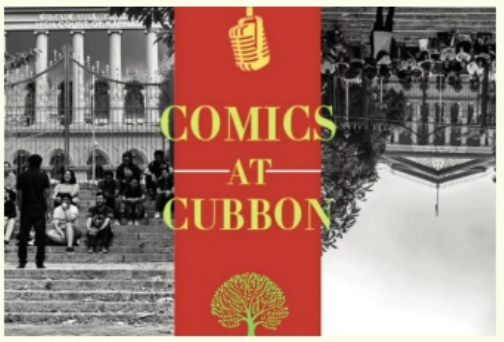
This delay has cast a shadow over the project for the city’s sports infrastructure. The facility, launched by former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai in December 2022, was expected to nurture future champions and bring much-needed attention to shooting sports in Bengaluru.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Spiritual melody

A grand celebration of Raghavendra Aradhana, this event is dedicated to honoring the revered saint Raghavendra Guru. This special occasion will be filled with devotion, music, and storytelling, creating an atmosphere of spiritual reverence and joy. The Harikatha sessions will captivate the audience with enchanting narratives, sharing stories of the Guru's life, wisdom, and unwavering devotion to Lord Vishnu. This event is an opportunity for devotees to come together, immerse themselves in the rich spiritual heritage, and seek the blessings of Raghavendra Guru. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall; When: August 22, 5 pm**



02 Laughing pill

Come watch the budding stand-up comedians from Bengaluru, test out their new and old material at 'Comics at Cubbon' every Sunday from August 25 to September 8, 2024. They go by the name EarthlingsComedyTheatre on Instagram and bring you Stand-Up Comedy open mics this time on the stairs opposite to the High Court of Karnataka, Inside Cubbon Park (Not the outside gate). **Where: Outside Karnataka High Court; When: August 25– September 8, 8.30 am and 9.30 am**

03 Qawwali & ghazals

Get immersed into the musicality of qawwalis, ghazals and Sufi Music, and experience the tranquility and inner peace, as you listen to some amazing melodies, tunes, rhythms and jugalbandi. Performed by South India`s very famous Qawwali & Ghazal Band - Sufi Soul, this event will surely take you to the nostalgic lanes of romance as well as mystic sufism. **Where: Bloom Activity Centre; When: August 24, 6.30 pm**

Ties that bind

Colourful rakhis being displayed ahead of Raksha Bandhan festival at Malleshwaram, on Sunday

Officials target larva to nip Zika in the bud

With seven confirmed Zika cases and rising dengue cases in state, advisory issues stringent implementation of Larval Elimination Day every Friday

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With the rise in dengue cases and the reporting of Zika virus cases (seven confirmed cases) in the state, along with the detection of the Zika virus in Aedes mosquitoes in two districts, there is growing concern. The effective elimination of Aedes larvae is crucial in preventing the spread of dengue, chikungunya, and Zika virus. The Commissionerate of Health and Family Welfare Services has expressed concern, noting that despite issuing advisory letters, circulars, and directives to declare every Friday as Larval Elimination Day in both urban and rural areas, the lack of effective implementation has contributed to the spread of the Zika virus.

Health Commissioner D Ranadeep, in a letter written on Saturday, highlighted that there is no specific treatment for Zika virus infection, and it must be managed and treated based on the symptoms, similar to the approach for dengue fever. He further stressed that if pregnant women contract the Zika virus, there is a significantly increased risk of microcephaly (neurological anomalies) in the newborn. Consequently, strict enforcement of the following measures, under the supervision of the respective district administration, is necessary to control the spread of the Zika virus.

Zika spreads through the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito and the infection's symptoms are similar to that of dengue

Ranadeep said, "Zika virus spreads through the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito. To prevent this, it is mandatory to eliminate Aedes larvae in rural and semi-urban areas. This includes eliminating larvae breeding in water storage containers and in solid waste discarded on rooftops that collect rainwater."

He said that Zika virus infection presents symptoms such as fever, red eyes, headaches, and joint and muscle pain, typically lasting two to seven days. If these symptoms are observed, serum samples should be sent to the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Bengaluru for Zika virus testing. In cases where Zika virus infection is confirmed, serum samples from all family members of the infected individual should also be sent for testing. "If the presence of Zika virus is confirmed in serum samples or Aedes mosquitoes, a three kilometre diameter area around the location should be identified as a 'containment zone.' Within this zone, all pregnant women should have their serum and urine samples sent to NIV for Zika testing. Additionally, the area within a one km diameter from the containment zone should be designated as a 'Risk Zone,' where larval surveys should be intensified, and suspected Zika fever cases should be tested. The district surveillance unit is responsible for collecting, testing, and maintaining a line list of samples from suspected cases and pregnant women. Health personnel and ASHA workers are required to visit every house in the containment zone daily to conduct fever surveys, guide suspected cases to health centers, educate residents on self-protection methods, and eliminate Aedes larvae. Daily reports on House Index, Container Index, and Bretean Index from each village or area should be analysed, and necessary instructions provided. To reduce the density of vector Aedes mosquitoes, urgent Pyrethrum 2% Extract Indoor space spraying should be conducted. Information on births in government and private hospitals over the last three months should be collected, and any cases of microcephaly reported immediately."

> **"Preventing Zika includes eliminating larvae breeding in water storage containers and in solid waste which collect water**
> – Ranadeep, Health Commissioner

Health Commissioner pressed the need for awareness of Zika amidst citizens. Since there is no specific treatment for Zika infection, it will be managed based on symptoms. Suspected or confirmed Zika cases should be isolated, get adequate rest, consume more fluids, and use mosquito nets even during the day. The public is advised to wear fully covering clothes, use mosquito repellents, and adopt other self-protection measures.

Death of furry companion has left locality bereft

4 days after being released from ABC centre, streetie dies; BBMP to organise workshop on how to handle strays

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Tuffy aka Gunda was the darling of residents at 14th A Cross of 5th Main of RT Nagar. He was a favourite with children because they thought of the dog as a loyal security guard of their locality. For more than five years, Tuffy was pampered with food in the area. Now, they are mourning the untimely and "suspicious" death of their dog that passed away on August 17.

It is said that Tuffy, who was born and brought up on the same street, used to bark at strangers but has never bitten anyone in the last five years. The BBMP Animal Husbandry Department claims that Tuffy was taken to an animal birth control centre based on a complaint lodged by a few residents. The residents said that the dog squad engaged by the BBMP took Tuffy to the ABC center at Shivajinagar on August 9. Meanwhile, one of the residents approached the ABC centre on August 13 and convinced the people working there to release Tuffy.

> "Tuffy was released and handed over to a resident when he promised to look after it. The dog had no health issues during four days at the ABC centre. I do not know what happened after the resident took it

BBMP workers capture Tuffy to take it to the ABC centre; **inset:** Locals bid farewell to Tuffy

"Tuffy was released and handed over to a resident when he promised to look after it. The dog had no health issues during four days at the ABC centre. I do not know what happened after the resident took it to the same location from where it was picked up from," said BBMP Animal Husbandry Assistant Director Dr Mallappa.

"Tuffy was a lovely dog. It was like a security guard for the 14th A Cross. It was only barking and has never bitten any person all these years. I was very happy to see it again on our street on August 13. I noticed that it was a little bit weak and dull. It was eating food but not like earlier," said Prajwal R, a Class 9 student.

Pawan Kumar, a resident, said that the dog was healthy before the BBMP squad took it to the ABC centre. "I do not know what happened during the stay at the ABC centre. The dog was very loyal and good with the residents," said Kumar.

The BBMP Animal Husbandry Department has now decided to organise an awareness programme at RT Nagar on Monday on how to handle and look after stray dogs.

BBMP Special Commissioner (Health & Animal Husbandry) Suralkar Vikas Kishor said that it seems the person who put up a social media post himself brought the dog out on August 13 with the responsibility that he would keep it indoors. "After four days the dog died so there can be many things which might have happened in between. The dog was not operated on," said the Special Commissioner.

Relief for Horticulture & Sericulture Dept daily wagers working for 10+ years

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The Karnataka High Court recently quashed an endorsement issued by the Horticulture and Sericulture Department, declaring that petitioners who have been working as daily wage workers for over 10 years without a sanctioned post are entitled to regularisation of service.

Justice PM Shyam Prasad allowed the petition filed by Shantalakshmi and others, stating that the impugned endorsements dated June 14, 2010, and June 15, 2012, are quashed, and the petitioners are entitled to regularisation under the 2002-2005 schemes. The respondents were directed to issue appropriate orders within three months.

The state government had rejected the petitioners' representation based on the Supreme Court's decision in Secretary, State of Karnataka vs Umadevi and a subsequent circular issued by the state government on January 5, 2006. In the Umadevi case, the court allowed a one-time regularisation of temporarily employed workers who had served for more than 10 years, subject to four conditions, including regularisation against a sanctioned post.

The petitioners sought regularisation on the grounds of parity, citing earlier High Court decisions directing the respondents to consider their case in light of judgments in HS Raghupati Gora's case and the Supreme Court's directions. The state government had issued schemes in 2002 and 2005 to implement these directions, which applied to daily wage workers in various departments, not just those in Zilla Panchayats.

The government opposed the plea, arguing that the petitioners' services were taken on nominal monthly rolls to meet exigencies and not against sanctioned posts, and that their services would not have continued without interim court orders. They contended that the petitioners could not claim parity with those in the referred cases or benefit from the 2002 and 2005 schemes.

The court noted that the petitioners and those whose services were already regularised under the 2002-2005 schemes were on an even footing in terms of appointment date, nature, and continuity of service. The only distinction was that the petitioners approached the court after the Umadevi case. The court held that the petitioners must be treated equally to avoid arbitrariness and unreasonableness in the decision.

The court opined that the reason for regularising services of those appointed temporarily but continued for 10 years or more is to prevent exploitation. It held that the petitioners are similarly situated to their juniors, whose services were regularised under the 2002-2005 schemes and subsequent orders without considering whether they were appointed against sanctioned posts or other circumstances mentioned in the Umadevi case.

The court rejected the government's contention that the petitioners were ineligible because their service continued due to interim court orders. Accordingly, it allowed the petition.

Student sexually assaulted in HSR Layout

A 21-year-old final-year student was allegedly sexually assaulted in the HSR Layout area in the early hours of Sunday.

The woman, who had attended a party in Koramangala, was returning home in a car with a friend when they were involved in a minor accident with an auto rickshaw near Forum Mall. While her friend was engaged in an argument with the auto rickshaw drivers, the victim got out of the car and began walking.

A bike-borne man approached her, offering to drop her home. However, he took her to an isolated area instead, where he allegedly sexually assaulted her. The victim, found semi-conscious and bruised, managed to call her family and friends, who alerted the police.

Senior police officials on night patrol rushed to the scene and transported the victim to the hospital for treatment. The police have recorded her statement and launched an investigation. "Five special teams have been formed to track down the accused," said Additional Commissioner of Police (East) Raman Gupta. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast) Sara Fathima mentioned that they have some leads and are working to apprehend the suspect.

Home Minister G Parameshwara addressed the incident stating, "As of now, it is being said that it was an attempt to rape. Medical tests and other procedures are being conducted." The woman is currently admitted to a private hospital and receiving treatment in the ICU.

Following the incident, the woman is said to have contacted her female friend, shared the details of the incident, and sought assistance. The doctors is said to have told the woman's friend that she had been raped. The friend reported the incident to the Hebbagodi police station. The case was later transferred to the HSR Layout police, as the victim's vehicle was found within their jurisdiction.

The police are still gathering more information about the incident. They have not confirmed reports that the victim is the daughter of an Army officer and said that they are verifying the facts of the case before making an official statement.

Authorities also mentioned that they are verifying crucial facts and statements provided by the victim, as she has been changing her account of the incident.

Senior police officials have visited the woman at the hospital and have also provided security at the medical facility. **– BMB**

Will new police post check erratic traffic?

Recently set up traffic police post on Mosque Road aims to address one-way rule violations and accidents; residents hope it improves safety but suggest adding CCTV for better enforcement

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To curb rising traffic violations and accidents on Mosque Road, a new Traffic Police Chowki is being constructed at the end of the newly built Mosque Road ROB. This aims to address the ongoing issue of vehicles violating one-way traffic rules, which has been a persistent problem in the area for months. The Chowki installation follows repeated complaints from residents who have witnessed numerous accidents caused by drivers ignoring one-way signs. Mohammed Farooq, a member of the Frazer Town Resident Welfare Association, has been actively advocating for this issue in traffic meetings for a long time. "I've seen too many accidents happen because of people driving the wrong way. I've been raising this issue in every traffic meeting for a very long time. It's a relief to finally see something being done," Farooq said.

The previous Traffic Circle Inspector, Mr Rafiq, had proposed the idea of setting up a police chowki to curb these violations, and after several months, the construction has finally begun. "Mr Rafiq had promised us that this chowki would be installed to stop the traffic violence, and I'm glad to see it being put up after so many months," Farooq added.

The new Traffic Circle Inspector, Mr Wasim Ahmed, has assured residents that once the chowki is completed and a constable is stationed there, strict enforcement will follow. "Many youngsters drive in the wrong direction and are violating traffic rules. We want to regulate this. The traffic police have initiated the construction of the chowki, and once the work is completed, we will deploy a constable for strict enforcement," said a senior traffic police officer. Residents hope the chowki will deter traffic violators, but some believe more measures are needed. "The chowki is a good start, but we need to think long-term. Installing CCTV cameras at this stop would provide continuous monitoring and make enforcement much more effective. With cameras in place, people will think twice before breaking the rules," said a resident.

File photo depicting vehicles violating rules and driving in the wrong direction; Inset: New traffic police chowki set up on Mosque Road

> **"Many youngsters drive in the wrong direction and are violating traffic rules. We want to regulate this with strict enforcement** – Traffic police

Another resident said, "With CCTV, the area can be monitored around the clock. The footage could serve as evidence against violators and help maintain road discipline."

Students weave green future with rakhis

School children in Varthur make bands from pistachio shells, pencil shavings and old fabric to tie to trees on Raksha Bandhan, pledging to plant 5,000 seeds for environmental conservation

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In an inspiring initiative to highlight the importance of environmental conservation, school students in Varthur will mark the festival of Raksha Bandhan uniquely. Amidst the rapid decline of tree cover in the city due to ongoing development, these young environmentalists will come together on Monday to celebrate the festival by pledging to protect the trees around them.

The students created colourful, handmade rakhis using recycled materials like pistachio shells, pencil shavings, old fabric, and corn cobs. "Our art and crafts teacher guided us in making beautiful, large rakhis from recycled paper and waste," said Aadhya Urs, a Grade 5 student. The children will tie the rakhis to trees around their school, embracing them as part of their "Save Trees, Save Bengaluru" campaign.

The students, along with their teachers and principal, will tie rakhis to over 100 trees in the area. Additionally, they will visit Muthasandra Government Hospital and the Panchayat office to tie rakhis to the wardens, honouring their selfless service.

The school, located in Muthasandra in Varthur, is known as The Green School Bangalore (TGSB), one of the first zero-carbon schools. The institution is committed to promoting harmony and environmental awareness. Usha Iyer, Founder and Principal of the school, expressed the significance of the event, stating, "Through this unique Raksha Bandhan event, we are creating awareness about protecting the tree cover of our city."

Children using recycled materials to make rakhis

To strengthen their commitment to the environment, the students are collaborating with the Sampige Seed Ball Foundation. On the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, they pledged to care for the trees and plant around 5,000 seeds, including Neem, Tamarind, Bamboo, Sandalwood, Black Ebony, Papaya, and Guava. These trees will enhance the city's green cover in the future.

"This initiative is the first of its kind in Whitefield. It reflects the growing awareness and responsibility among the younger generation to protect the environment. The actions of these students on Raksha Bandhan will serve as a reminder of the need to preserve Bengaluru's rapidly depleting tree cover, ensuring a greener and healthier future for all." said a parent.

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Tiles hazard
Visvesvaraya Park

Broken footpath tiles near Vigneshwara Venkatesha Temple on Modi Hospital Road, opposite Visvesvaraya Park are causing injuries like sprained ankles to pedestrians. BBMP needs to fix this issue quickly.

Garbage menace
Bharathi Nagar

Garbage has piled up on St. John's Church Road, Bharathi Nagar, for three months, causing foul smells and making it difficult for pedestrians. The area has also become a hotspot for inappropriate activities and raises concerns about dengue due to stagnant water.

Trash trouble
Malleswaram

In Malleswaram, near Hallimane Hotel on 3rd Cross, trash is scattered along the road, leading to unsanitary conditions due to neglect.

Flower show's green efforts drowned in plastic

Despite strict waste management at Lalbagh, significant amounts of glass bottles and tetra packs were found

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Despite the ongoing Independence Day Lalbagh Flower Show, where volunteers and the horticulture department work to keep the event clean and reduce waste by banning plastic products, many plastic water bottles remain on the premises.

Although the horticulture department strictly enforced the confiscation of plastic water bottles at the entry gates, many still managed to bring them in. Numerous bottles were found during the event.

Raj from the Ploggers Army, who conducts plogging sessions on weekends, collected around 45-50 kgs of waste, primarily consisting of glass bottles, tetra packs, and plastic bottles. He said, "We were shocked to see so many bottles. While some vendors are still questioning how so many bottles got through, the horticulture department and BBMP were quite active this time and did their best. I feel the onus lies predominantly on us, that's the citizens/visitors. It's fine to enjoy the flower show but not at the cost of leaving the place dirty. Apart from plastic bottles, we found a lot of glass bottles which the visitors could have easily avoided discarding everywhere. The same is the case with Tetra packs. We suspect that some people might not have been checked, allowing water bottles to be brought inside easily."

Plastic bottles, tetra packs gathered by volunteers

Plastic water bottles, though convenient, have a significant negative impact on the environment. These bottles are often discarded improperly, ending up in landfills, oceans, rivers, and other natural environments. Plastic bottles take hundreds of years to decompose, leading to long-lasting litter that can harm wildlife and ecosystems. Animals often mistake plastic bottles for food, leading to ingestion that can cause injury or death.

Odette Katrak from Beautiful Bharat commented, "Unfortunately, gate checks this year seem less strict compared to previous years. Only the Double Road gate, with its ticket lanes, has formal checks, while other gates have sporadic inspections. Staff at visitor gates are letting people from stalls through without checks, which likely explains why banned items keep getting inside. Gate checks for vendors arriving with vehicles are not as thorough. Once banned items like Non-Woven Polypropylene (NWPP) are inside the gates, it becomes much harder for marshals to trace and penalise them, as vendors often hide the items when they see the marshals approaching."

Katrak also noted that one of the vendors used plastic-lined bowls for fruit chat on the first day. "I showed them the plastic layer and warned that marshals would fine them heavily the next day. I was pleased to see they switched to plain leaf donne. Such changes should be sustained year-round, " she said.

BBMP issues notice to PG owner for road damage

Concrete slabs near Kadubeesanahalli are damaged due to improper sewage discharge

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Hospitals and Paying Guests (PG) accommodations are improperly using drains on the service road near Kadubeesanahalli underpass for grey and sewage water. This practice not only harms the environment but also creates an unpleasant situation for pedestrians due to the bad odour from stagnant sewage in the roadside drain.

During an inspection, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Road Infrastructure Assistant Executive Engineer discovered broken concrete slabs and road damage caused by sewage from a nearby PG lodging. The Assistant Executive Engineer then contacted Krishna Moorthy, owner of Serene Stay PG for Ladies, and inquired about the damage. Moorthy was questioned about both the broken concrete slabs and the road damage resulting from allowing sewage from the PG to enter the roadside drain.

The Assistant Executive Engineer had previously issued a show-cause notice to a hospital on August 6 for discharging wastewater into the roadside drain. Following this, the AEE has now sent a show-cause notice to Krishna Moorthy, owner of Serene Stay PG for Ladies, by Speed Post after Moorthy allegedly refused to accept it in person. The notice demands an explanation for the improper discharge of sewage.

Left: The condition of the service road near Kadubeesanahalli underpass; Right: Broken concrete slabs on the roadside drain

"We found concrete slabs broken and damage caused to the road for letting sewage water into the roadside drain on August 3. We enquired the PG owner about it and he has accepted releasing sewage water into the roadside drain. We have issued a show-cause notice to the PG owner as to why the BBMP should not take legal action against him for damaging the road and breaking concrete slabs," the Assistant Executive Engineer said in the notice.

The show-cause notice requires the PG owner to submit a detailed report within three days of receiving it, outlining the measures taken to halt the release of sewage into the roadside drain.

In response, Krishna Moorthy, owner of Serene Stay PG for Ladies has said that he has engaged workers to repair the broken concrete slabs and fix the road, which was reportedly excavated to allow sewage to enter the drain. "I have already engaged workers and the work will be completed by evening or tomorrow," Krishna Moorthy said.

> **We have issued a show-cause notice to the PG owner as to why the BBMP should not take legal action for damaging the road and breaking concrete slabs**
> –Assistant Executive Engineer

Abhay conquers F1600 crown

Sixteen-year-old Bengaluru driver, Abhay Mohan, clinched his maiden National title winning the prestigious Formula 1600 National championship with ten consecutive wins as the fourth and final round of the Madras Motor Sports Club Indian National Car Racing Championship.

The 2022 Junior National Karting champion, graduated to single-seater racing just this year, but he took to the powerful Formula cars like a duck to water, with a phenomenal all-win record till the penultimate race of the last round.

File photo of Formula 1600 race

"This is my first year in single-seater Formula cars, but it has been a memorable season. It feels amazing to be the National champion and to have 10 consecutive wins. After all the hard work, the support I got from my parents, family, friends and JA motorsports is amazing. I want to thank all of them for the splendid job," said Abhay Mohan following his achievement.

He had an impressive unbeaten run of 10 consecutive races and conceded points only after clinching the championship that had 12 races.

His driving skills and racing lines left others to fight among themselves for minor placings. Two Mumbai drivers Zahan Commissariat and Raaj Bakhru finished second and third in the championship.

The 2008-born driver shifted to NIOS homeschooling to focus on his racing. Of the 12 races, he won 11 and garnered 293 out of 300 points. In the final race which was red-flagged and re-started from the pit lane, Abhay kept his cool and clinched the issue for a winning end to his maiden championship.

"I am glad that I got the opportunity and facilities to race here," he said.

–IANS

₹6,493-crore budget funding for direct railway lines in Bengaluru

Under the Amrit Bharat Stations Scheme, 51 stations in SWR have been taken up for redevelopment

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Long pending projects for improving railway infrastructure around Bengaluru have got new allocation in the recent Union Budget. Among the key lines, the Tumakuru to Davangere line, which will pass through Chitradurga, is set to receive Rs 150 crore. This line has been delayed and is necessary to shorten the distance between Bengaluru and Hubballi which is currently passing via Tumakuru, Kadur, Chikkajaur and Davangere.

Manjunath Kanamadi, Chief Public Relations Officer, South Western Railway (SWR) said, "The Gadag (Talkal) to Wadi line has been allocated Rs 200 crore. Similarly, Rs 250 crore has been earmarked for the Tumakuru to Rayadurg line via Kalyandurg. The Bagalkot to Kudachi line has been allocated Rs 150 crore, and Rs 150 crore has also been set aside for the Shivamogga to Shikaripura and Ranebennur line."

Additionally, fund allocation has been made for proposed new lines. Rs 20 crore is allocated for the Belagavi to Dharwad line via Kittur, while Rs 60 crore is designated for the Marikuppam to Kuppam line. The Kadur to Chikkamagaluru and Hassan line has been allocated Rs 70 crore.

Long pending projects for improving railway infrastructure around Bengaluru have got new allocation in the recent Union Budget

For the Malagur to Palasamudram line, Rs 21 crore has been set aside. The Hassan to Bengaluru line, passing through Shravanabelagola, has received an allocation of Rs 20 crore, and the Hubballi to Ankola line is also allocated Rs 20 crore. Lastly, Rs 100 crore is allocated for the Munirabad to Mahabubnagar line, and Rs 150 crore has been designated for the Gadag to Yalvigi line.

Meanwhile, the doubling of key railway lines has also got fresh funding. "For the Gadag- Hotgi project, an allocation of Rs 170 crore has been made. The Penukonda- Dharmavaram project is allocated Rs 100 crore, while the Baiyappanahalli- Hosur line will receive Rs 200 crore. The Yesvantpur-Channasandra project also has an allocation of Rs 100 crore. The Hubballi- Chikjajur project is allocated Rs 25 crore. Notably, the Bengaluru Cantt- Whitefield quadrupling project has a substantial allocation of Rs 200 crore. The Hospet-Tinaighat- Vasco da Gama project is allocated the largest amount at Rs 400 crore. The Yelahanka- Penukonda line will receive Rs 20 crore, and the Arsikere- Tumakuru project is also allocated Rs 20 crore," Kanmadi said. However, railway activists said that the doubling of key railway lines is necessary as the current railway lines on busy routes have saturated with no scope for introduction of new trains. However, they urge that current funding is not necessary and the Centre should provide more funding.

Kanmadi said, "The SWR has been allocated a total outlay of Rs. 6493.87 crore. Continuing the emphasis on enhancing infrastructure to provide connectivity and passenger comfort, an allocation of Rs 1448.89 crore for new line, Rs 1241 crore for doubling has been made. For ensuring uninterrupted best service to passengers Rs 961.22 crore have been allocated for passenger amenities. The redevelopment work has commenced at Bengaluru Cantonment and Yesvantpur stations already. Under the Amrit Bharat Stations Scheme, 51 stations in SWR have been taken up for redevelopment. Recently, Gubbi and Shravanabelagola railway stations in the Bengaluru Division have been granted approval from the Ministry of Railways for redevelopment under the ABSS scheme. Additionally for Road Over Bridge and Road Under Bridge projects, Rs 349.40 crore have been allocated. To expedite future works, they will be 100% funded by the railway. The allocation for traffic facility works is Rs 145.84 crore."

Medical college rallies for justice

Deeply condemning the Kolkata rape and murder incident, young doctors and residents at Dr BR Ambedkar Medical College and Hospital took to the streets to show their support and solidarity in suspending all the non-emergency medical services to seek justice, demanding an impartial and transparent investigation into the matter by the Chief Bureau of Investigation.

Protesters said, "We held a rally in full support from the local police to ensure the safety of students who succeeded in creating awareness amongst the people along a stretch of three kilometres around the Shampura area. More than 250 healthcare workers including students of medical, dental, physiotherapy, nursing colleges, resident doctors, professors, nurses and interns took part in the protest. We held an observance of silence for the victim and a candlelight vigil in the evening to further strengthen our resolve. We demand justice. We demand safety. We demand accountability. We demand our right to live while discharging our duty." — BMB

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Courteous mien

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot have been at odds over the alleged MUDA scam. Their interaction during the Independence Day program drew considerable attention as they maintained a courteous demeanor. However, the following day, the Governor authorised the prosecution, prompting CM Siddaramaiah and his team to resume their criticism of the Governor's decision.

No to bulletproof

During the recent Independence Day celebration, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah took to the stage to unfurl the national flag. A bulletproof podium had been arranged for his safety, but upon seeing it, Siddaramaiah instructed the officials to remove the bulletproof glass, stating that he did not require it. Despite his request, the bulletproof glass remained in place as he addressed the audience after hoisting the tricolour.

MLA plays cop

Typically, it's the police who enforce traffic rules, but Mulbagal Member of Legislative Assembly, Samruddhi Manjunath took on the role of traffic enforcer during an inspection of delayed flyover projects in his constituency. While touring the area with Kolar Member of Parliament, Mallesh Babu, Manjunath spotted a KSRTC bus heading the wrong way. Without hesitation, he stepped out of his vehicle and confronted the driver, demanding an explanation for the violation. He didn't back down until the bus driver complied and reversed the vehicle to correct the mistake.

No resignation

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah held a press conference on Saturday following a cabinet meeting. When a journalist inquired about his strategy for the legal battle, the CM responded that he could not disclose details at the moment but would provide information at a later stage. Another journalist asked if he was considering resignation, to which an emotionally charged CM retorted, "Why should I resign? For what reason should I resign? You tell me why I should resign. In my view, it is the Governor who should resign, not me. He has behaved like a puppet of the Government of India."

'Pooja' controversy

Recently, the film industry came together to hold a special pooja, intended to ensure a prosperous future for the industry. However, rumours circulated suggesting that the event was organised specifically to facilitate the early release of jailed Kannada film actor Darshan. When the media inquired, veteran actor Jaggesh addressed the rumours, stating, "Initially, I too heard such speculations. But upon investigation, I confirmed that the pooja was solely for the overall well-being of the film industry, and not related to Darshan's situation. Therefore, there are no issues." Bharatiya Janata Party leader NR Ramesh also commented on the matter, saying, "Upon checking with the film fraternity, I was assured that the pooja was meant for the industry's benefit."

Special naming ceremony

While naming ceremonies are typically reserved for people, a recent event near Shivamogga took this tradition to a new level by celebrating the naming of an elephant. Deputy Conservator of Forest, Prasanna Kumar shared with the media, "On November 2, 2023, we captured a wild elephant and tamed it, and today, we named it Ashwathhama. At the Sakrebailu Elephant Camp, we conducted a pooja, adorned the elephant with decorations, and treated it to a feast of fruits and sugarcane. This event was aimed at raising awareness about the need to protect these majestic creatures."

Internal dissent

BJP is currently facing internal dissent following a recent padayatra to Mysuru. Some rebellious leaders within the party have voiced their opposition and are planning a parallel padayatra to Ballari to spotlight alleged scams involving the Valmiki Corporation. When asked about the discontent within the party, Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka acknowledged the situation but defended the party's performance. He noted that while the parallel padayatra had come to his attention, he saw no inherent issue with it, emphasising that the party's high command would make a final decision.

Guarantee trouble

There have been whispers that a few cabinet ministers are opposing the continuation of the guarantee schemes. When contacted, Public Works Department Minister, Satish Jarkiholi recently remarked, "I've been informed by numerous government employees that they are taking advantage of the guarantee schemes. Infact, one individual shared that all seven siblings in their family are benefiting from these schemes. This raises concerns about ensuring that only those truly deserving receive the benefits. Our program is intended to assist the poor, and we need to reassess its implementation. While I haven't made any specific recommendations yet, I have indicated that discussions are ongoing regarding these guarantee schemes."

Unknown visa rejection

Arun Yogiraj, an architect, recently faced an unexpected visa rejection from the United States. In a media interview, he shared his experience, saying, "On August 30, I was scheduled to be the chief guest at the Association of Kannada Kootas of America (AKKA) program in the USA. After applying for the visa, my family and I attended the embassy appointment, where we answered all the questions. To my astonishment, I later discovered that my visa had been canceled. To this day, I still don't know the reason for the rejection." — Sridhar Vivan

HEALTH TIP: Tomatoes are full of enzymes that make them great as an exfoliator that helps in getting rid of dead skin cells

Avocados are rich in vitamins C and E which help protect your skin from harmful UV rays

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Back to work

7 expert tips for how to avoid work stress after holiday

The philosopher and political economist John Stuart Mill once wrote about why he didn't take holidays. "No holidays allowed," he explained, "lest the habit of work should be broken, and a taste for idleness acquired."

It is certainly true that when people take holidays and then return to work, they tend to feel "instant stress". All the R&R they got from the laid-back lifestyle of lounging by the pool can disappear within hours of returning to the office.

Whether we're mainly office-based or work from home, our working environment can be frenetic, full-on, fast-moving, unrelenting and exhausting for many – especially after some time off. Two top US cardiologists in the 1970s, Meyer Friedman and Ray Rosenman, defined the consequences of most work environments as "hurry sickness".

The UK's most recent Health & Safety Executive report on sickness absence showed that "stress, depression or anxiety" accounted for 51% of all work-related ill-health cases, and 55% of all working days lost due to work-related ill health.

In a nutshell, most work is stressful, requiring bouts of respite and serious rest, relaxation and recuperation.

So how can we learn to manage the stress of returning to our desk, to ensure we retain some of the benefits that breaks from work provide and avoid the post-holiday stress trap? As a professor of organisational psychology and health, here are seven suggestions.

1. Reconnect with your colleagues

On your first morning back at work, use your first hour(s) to reconnect socially with your colleagues, sharing your holiday and other experiences. Work can provide positive and meaningful relationships, and to sustain our health and wellbeing, social connection is essential.

2. Control your workload

Avoid doing your email responses straight away. The large inbox will induce an immediate stress response, and your desire to read all your emails on day one will not only overload and exhaust you, it may also lead to problematic responses that create relationship issues down the line.

You might, for example, be more curt than you usually would be, and the recipient might take offence. Look over all your emails casually, highlight and respond only to the urgent ones, and leave the rest for another day.

> "How can we learn to manage the stress of returning to our desk, to ensure we retain some of the benefits that breaks from work provide?

3. Take short breaks

Ensure you take a coffee or tea break and lunch each day during your first week back. If you're office-based, take these breaks with different colleagues and, over lunch, try to leave the office to have your lunch in a park or other outside venue.

4. Go home on time and avoid long hours

When you get home, be active. Don't flop in front of the TV but go to a gym or out for a run, or treat yourself to a meal out with your family or friends. Let the holiday mode spill over to your home environment.

5. Don't arrange lots of meetings

The pace of most workplaces is fast for many people. Cardiologists Friedman and Rosenman suggested in their 1974 book, Type A Behavior and Your Heart, that people become "obsessionally time-directed" by the office environment. Don't arrange numerous meetings to show others that you're back and up and running. Basically, don't try to do everything in your in-tray in 48 hours!

6. Be tolerant of colleagues

Colleagues who constantly complain and suggest there is no solution to a problem can create stress, particularly when you have just returned from a wonderful and stress-free holiday. Try to be patient, tolerant, and listen to their diatribe without taking it seriously.

7. Set realistic work objectives

Finally, avoid setting unachievable deadlines for your work or making unnecessary appointments, and politely say no to things you won't be able to achieve in your first week back.

Studs Terkel, the social reformer, wrote in his acclaimed book Working: "Work is about a search for daily meaning as well as daily bread, for recognition as well as cash, for astonishment rather than torpor – in short, for a sort of life rather than a Monday-to-Friday sort of dying."

Holidays provide an opportunity for recuperation from the stresses of modern work environments, so let's allow some of this to spill over into the workplace on your return to the office.

(By Cary Cooper, University of Manchester, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Like old book hardcovers? They may be dangerous for you, study finds

If you come across brightly coloured, cloth-bound books from the Victorian era, handle them carefully, or avoid them altogether. These books could be hiding toxic dyes that pose health risks to readers, collectors, or librarians, according to research on Sunday.

Researchers at Lipscomb University in the US assessed the dangerous dyes in a university collection and found some volumes may be unsafe to handle. Users risk exposure if pigments from these cloth covers rub off onto their hands or become airborne, they said.

"These old books with toxic dyes may be in universities, public libraries, and private collections," said Abigail Hoermann, an undergraduate chemistry student at Lipscomb University.

The research began when Lipscomb librarians approached the chemistry department to test 19th- and early-20th-century fabric-covered books. Inspired by the Winterthur Museum's discovery of arsenic-laden copper acetoarsenite in book covers, the team launched their investigation in 2022.

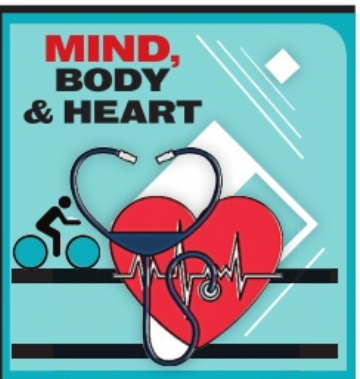
They used three spectroscopic techniques: X-ray fluorescence (XRF) to detect heavy metals, inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectroscopy (ICP-OES) to measure metal concentrations, and X-ray diffraction (XRD) to identify pigment molecules.

XRD testing, a first for books, revealed high levels of lead and chromium, particularly in the form of lead(II) chromate, a pigment also used by Vincent van Gogh.

Their analysis showed metal concentrations in some books exceeding US CDC limits for chronic exposure, prompting the Lipscomb library to seal untested and confirmed toxic books in plastic bags for safe handling and storage.

The researchers plan to advocate for non-destructive testing methods like XRD to protect historical collections without damaging them. "Moving forward," says Hoermann, "we want libraries to be able to test their collections without destroying them."

The team will present their findings at the American Chemical Society (ACS) Fall 2024 meeting, held virtually and in person from August 18-22. **–IANS**



All you need to know about...

Rare diseases

Inherited disorders
A new study suggested that inherited immune and metabolism disorders are more similar than previously believed. The results provide fresh information that may help patients with these illnesses receive better care by highlighting a novel collection of metabolic genes that are critical for immune system T cell activity.
The findings of the study were published in the journal Science Immunology.

Errors of immunity
The study looked at the genes that lead to inborn errors of immunity, which are illnesses that impact immune system function, and inborn errors of metabolism, which are diseases of the mechanisms cells employ to transform food into energy. We don't fully understand these uncommon and complicated disorders.

Overlapping genes
"There had previously been only a small number of genes that were on both lists of diseases, but we found that many more have overlap," said Andrew Patterson, PhD, who led the study as a postdoctoral fellow working with Jeffrey Rathmell, PhD, at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. "Our study showed that a large number of genes associated with inborn errors of metabolism can also potentially affect T cell function when they are mutated."
The findings suggest that patients with an inborn error of metabolism may also have immune defects that could impact their care, and conversely that metabolic defects may contribute to symptoms in patients with inborn errors of immunity.

CRISPR approach
Patterson and the research team used a gene-editing CRISPR approach to screen the inborn errors of metabolism genes for immune defects and the inborn errors of immunity genes for metabolic defects.
–ANI

Shot in the foot

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Instead, the centre has become a symbol of unfulfilled potential, with equipment gathering dust.

Parents, who were eager to enroll their children in the free training programmes, told BM, "We were told that this centre would open soon, and that our children would have access to world-class training right here in our neighbourhood."

A parent said they have been running around trying to get their son admitted to the centre. "It's been such a struggle because it hasn't opened yet. All the equipment is there, everything is ready, but without the centre being operational, many parents like me are finding it difficult. Other training centers are far from our neighbourhood, and having this one close by would make a big difference. We could really encourage our children. Every parent dreams of seeing their child participate in the Olympics, just like Manu Bhaker. If the BBMP opens this centre, it would be helpful for all of us."

A BBMP official said that the lack of trainers is the main reason for the delay. Securing qualified professionals to lead the training programmes has proven to be more challenging than anticipated. The process of finding and signing contracts with competent trainers is still ongoing, and the official gave a one-month timeline for when the centre would finally open its doors.

However, the building construction is still under process as work is ongoing at the badminton court and it may take two more years to be fully furnished. As the wait drags on, there is growing concern that the enthusiasm around the project may dissipate altogether.

Prosecution cloud: CM to convene CLP meeting on Thursday

Following a special cabinet meeting on Saturday to gather support, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has scheduled a Congress Legislative Party (CLP) meeting for August 22. This move comes after Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot authorised the prosecution of Siddaramaiah in connection with the alleged site allotment scam involving the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

Congress workers stage a dharna in front of the Indira Gandhi Congress Bhavan in Mysuru

The chief minister's office has announced that the meeting will take place in the Vidhana Soudha Conference Hall. Minister for Information Technology and Biotechnology, Priyank Kharge, commented, "Given the significant controversy surrounding the governor's decision, it's crucial to inform our representatives. With 136 MLAs involved, it's important they are updated on the situation."

He added that the meeting would focus on developments related to the MUDA case. The chief minister will provide Congress legislators with details about the case and outline strategies for both legal and political defense.

The MUDA 'scam' involves allegations that compensatory sites were allocated to Siddaramaiah's wife, Parvathi, in a prime area of Mysuru, which had a higher property value compared to her original land, which was reportedly acquired by MUDA. MUDA allotted 14 sites to Parvathi under a 50:50 ratio scheme in exchange for 3 acres and 16 gunts of her land, which MUDA developed into a residential layout.

The controversial scheme involved MUDA giving 50 percent of developed land as compensation for undeveloped land acquired from various individuals for creating residential layouts. BJP leaders have estimated the scale of the MUDA 'scam' to be between Rs 4,000 crore and Rs 5,000 crore. In response, the Congress government established a single-member inquiry commission on July 14, led by former High Court Judge Justice PN Desai, to investigate the alleged scam.

Siddaramaiah has pledged to fight the case legally, and as part of this effort, senior advocates Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Kapil Sibal are scheduled to arrive in Bengaluru on August 19, according to sources in the chief minister's office.

These distinguished Supreme Court lawyers are expected to meet with Siddaramaiah and may represent him in the special court for public representatives. While Minister Priyank Kharge did not confirm the names of the lawyers, he indicated that top constitutional experts will be brought to Bengaluru to assist in the case. Kharge stated, "We are preparing to address the situation effectively.

We will have the best constitutional experts on board, and we have significant support from within the state. We are confident in our approach and will address the matter thoroughly."

Statewide protests

In response to the ongoing controversy, Congress activists have organised statewide protests. Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also serves as the Congress state president, has urged party leaders and workers to participate in a kilometer-long march to Taluk and district offices. They are instructed to submit a memorandum addressed to President Droupadi Murmu, protesting the Governor's decision.

Shivakumar has accused the BJP and JD(S) of conspiring against Siddaramaiah and emphasised the party's commitment to fighting this alleged plot. He stated, "It is our duty to oppose this conspiracy aimed at undermining Siddaramaiah. We must challenge the misuse of the Governor's office, which has granted permission to prosecute the Chief Minister."

Shivakumar has called for widespread participation in the protests, asserting that the Congress will stand firm against these actions.

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I Pramodini Devi D/O, Dibakar Rath R/o Flat 710, A Block 7th Floor, Slv Central Park, Bidare Agrahara, Bandapura, Po : Virgonagar, Bangalore 560049, Karnataka have changed my name to Pramodini Mishra.

I, Sachin Deep, S/o Rama Kant R/o Nandanam Colony, Bangalore have changed my minor daughter's name from Arianna Deep to Advika Deep Tripathi for all future purposes

I S.dinesh S/O, Sampath R/o 73/1, munireddy Layout,mahadevpura Post,bangalore 560048. have changed my name to Vijaydinesh Sampath.

I E B Aloysius George S/O, Edezhath George Baisil R/o #5, 7th Cross, Jaraganahalli, J P Nagar Post, Bangalore 560078 have changed my name to Erich Aloysius.

I, Tiyasha Dey R/O No 1106, 4P Block, 11th Floor, Provident Equinox, Doddabele, Kengari, Blr-60 changed my name from Tiyasha Mondal to Tiyasha Dey for all future purposes

Agencies busy with blame game as lake slowly dies

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

organised a walkathon on December 2, 2018. The BM reported about it on December 3, 2018, narrating how the residents have been striving to save the lake since 2013. However, the condition of the lake remains the same.

Pool of sewage

The residents said the BBMP Lakes Department took up the rejuvenation of the lake in 2022 but the developmental works are progressing at a snail's pace thus making it a pool of sewage.

"We have been complaining to the BBMP Lakes Department and the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) officials about the pathetic condition of the lake but they are wasting time by only engaging in blame shifting. They are not responding to our phone calls," said a resident.

Expressing concern over the delay in restoring the water body, Mahesh Gune, another resident, said the BBMP Lakes Department took up developmental works at an estimated cost of around Rs 10 crore but the condition of the lake remains pathetic and has even gotten worse. Gune said that authorities concerned have failed to ensure the completion of the developmental works. "The delay in completion of the developmental works is disappointing. The condition of the lake is deteriorating. The authorities must fix this problem as early as possible," said Gune.

Stating the stagnated sewage in the lake would pollute groundwater in the vicinity, Ali Asgar, a resident of Bora Layout, said the people residing at the flats around the lake are the most affected.

"We have been suffering a lot due to the delay in restoration of the lake. With sewage flowing into the lake, it has become a breeding place for mosquitoes. We demand the authorities to stop sewage flowing into the lake and keep it clean," said Ali. He said the water body was a destination for a variety of species, but now birds are not visiting the lake due to pollution.

When contacted, BWSSB Assistant Executive Engineer Rangappa told BM the BWSSB has taken up underground drainage pipeline work and it has remained incomplete due to a land dispute among five property owners.

"We have already issued a notice to them advising them to resolve their dispute and allow the BWSSB contractor to recommence the UGD pipeline work. I hope the pipeline work will begin shortly," said the official.

12% tested spice samples fail safety standards

Food safety authority carries out tests after questions raised on pesticide levels in some spice blends

Nearly 12% of tested spice samples failed to meet quality and safety standards, according to data obtained by Reuters of tests by Indian authorities after several countries took steps over contamination risks in two popular brands.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India conducted inspections, sampling and testing of mixed spice blends after Hong Kong suspended sales of some blends of the MDH and Everest brands in April over high levels of a pesticide.

Britain then tightened controls on all spice imports from India, while New Zealand, the United States and Australia have said they were looking into issues related to the brands.

MDH and Everest have said their products are safe for consumption. Their spices are among the most popular in India - the world's biggest exporter, producer and consumer of spices. They are sold in Europe, Asia and North America.

FSSAI conducted inspections, sampling and testing of spice blends

The data, obtained by Reuters under India's Right to Information Act, shows 474 of 4,054 samples tested between May and early July did not meet quality and safety parameters.

The safety agency told Reuters in a statement it did not have breakdowns by brands of the spices it tested but was taking necessary action against companies involved.

"Action on non-conforming samples has been taken as stipulated," it said, referring to penalty provisions under Indian law, without elaborating.

Reuters open records request sought reports on all the samples that failed the tests, but the agency said such reports were unavailable.

India's domestic spice market was valued at $10.44 billion in 2022, according to Zion Market Research.

Its exports of spices and spice products were a record $4.46 billion in the fiscal year that ended in March. **-Reuters**

FSSAI to check microplastic contamination in Indian foods

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Sunday launched an innovative project to tackle the growing concern of microplastic contamination in food.

Microplastics are tiny pieces of plastics that range in size -- from five millimetres to one micrometre. From human blood to testicles, to flora and fauna, these have long been known as a significant environmental and health concern worldwide. FSSAI initiated the new project in March this year to develop and validate analytical methods for detecting micro and nano-plastics in various food products. It is also aimed at assessing the prevalence and exposure levels of microplastics in India. The project will develop standard protocols for micro/nano-plastic analysis, conduct intra- and inter-laboratory comparisons, and generate critical data on microplastic exposure levels among consumers.

"While global studies have highlighted the presence of microplastics in various foods, it is imperative to generate reliable data specific to India. This project will help understand the extent of microplastic contamination in Indian food and guide the formulation of effective regulations and safety standards to protect public health," FSSAI said. The project is being implemented in collaboration with leading research institutions across the country, including the CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (Lucknow), ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (Kochi), and the Birla Institute of Technology and Science (Pilani), FSSAI said. **-IANS**

BM Finance Fundas

Consumer Connect Initiative

Outward remittances exceeding ₹6 lakh come under I-T scanner

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has launched a comprehensive scrutiny and verification of high-value outward foreign remittances of above 6 lakh to identify discrepancies in remittance data and likely tax evasion.

The move follows detection of cases where foreign remittances and expenditures did not align with the income declared by

individuals, and lapses in tax collected at source (TCS), ET has learnt.

The board has asked the field formations to start the verification process and scrutiny of Form 15CC - a quarterly disclosure statement of outward remittances filed by authorised dealers to the income-tax department, officials aware of the development said.

The Form 15CC data was being collected and segregated since 2016 and it will be available for analysis from this year, they said.

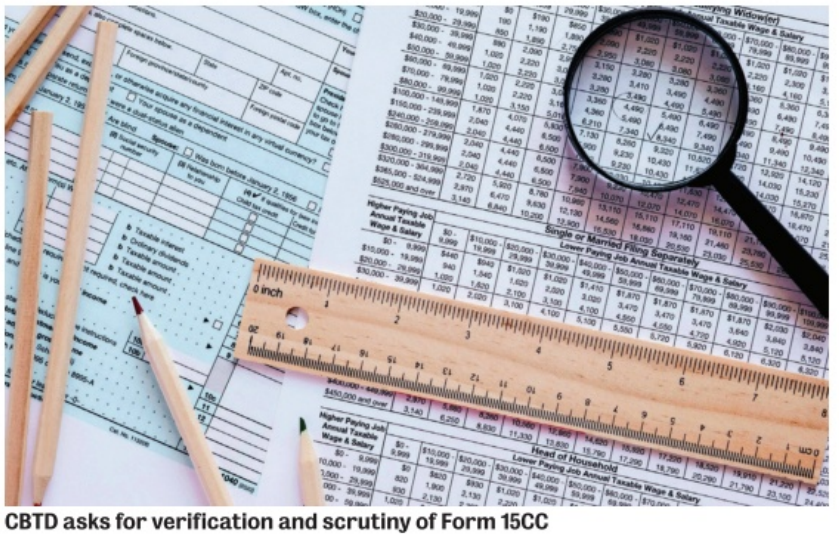
"A comprehensive review was recommended last year... This will (soon) be made available to field formations for the first time," a senior official told ET.

The move will help the government to identify cases where the remittance was sent but was not reported by the taxpayer in their filling, the official said.

"The whole exercise will curb tax evasion and ensure that legitimate remittances are facilitated while preventing abuse of relaxations in foreign remittance reporting," the official added.

The board will prepare a list of high-risk cases based on scrutiny of data from 2020-21 onwards.

It has directed the field formations to frame a detailed standard operating procedure (SOP) to detect high-risk cases and to submit a list of such cases latest by September 30.



CBTD asks for verification and scrutiny of Form 15CC

The government has set a deadline of December 31 for sending first notices to those identified as having undeclared income. Elaborating on the irregularities, the official quoted above said that in one case, an individual with declared annual income of 5 lakh is found to have sent 15 lakh abroad in the last three years, using three different dealers so that it will not attract mandatory TCS and escape the tax net.

The government collects 20% TCS on foreign remittances of above Rs 7 lakh under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), with some exceptions on medical and education expenditure.

Under the foreign remittance reporting through Form 15CC, if the remitter, or deductor, certifies that the remittance is not taxable, no further details are required - for instance, payments by importers, by companies to their subsidiaries, or loans to non-residents.

However, officials said, the department has detected some cases of potential misuse of this relaxation.

"Monitoring these payments where exemption is claimed is crucial to prevent abuse of these relaxations," said the official quoted above.

The CBDT has already asked banks to report total forex spends as a distinct category, in addition to total credit card spends, even when they are not collecting TCS. This data is being recorded in the annual income statement, used to assess the income tax. The government had raised TCS on foreign remittances under LRS to 20% from 5% starting October 1, 2023.

The budget 2023 had also brought international credit card payments under the ambit of LRS and implemented TCS on such transactions. However, it was later rolled back following wide criticism. **-By Anuradha Shukla, ET Bureau**

NOW IN CINEMAS

PVR: Directors Cut Rex - M.G. Road | Forum Mall - Koramangala | Orion Mall | Phoenix Market City | VR Mall | Vaishanvi Mall | Cinemax-1 Spirit Mall - Bellandur | Bhartiya City Mall | MSR Regalia | Vega City Mall | Orion Uptown Mall | Fiza Mall - Mangalore | Garuda Mall - Mysore | Forum Mall - Mysore | The Cinema GT World | Aura Park Square - Whitefield Road | Global Mall - Nayandalli | Superplex Forum mall - Falcon City. | Mall of Asia, Airport Road.

INOX: Brookfield | Garuda Mall - Magrath Road | Garuda Swagath Mall | Mantri Square Mall | Central Mall - JP Nagar | Lido - Ulsoor | Value Mall | SBR Horizon | Forum Neighbourhood Mall | Swagath, Jayanagar | Satyam - Mysore | Centro Mall - Mysore | Central Mall - Manipal | Garuda - Yalahanka | RMZ Mall - Yalahanka | S Mall - Tumkur.

cinépolis: ETA Namma Mall - Binneypet | Orion East Mall - Banasawadi | Royal Meenakshi Mall - Bannergatta Road | Forum Shantiniketan Mall | Lulu Mall | VIP Lulu | SJR Spectrum Mall | City Central Mall - Mangalore.

GOPALAN CINEMAS: Innovation Mall : 11.30 am & 7.45 pm | ArchMall : 2.30 pm | Grand Mall : 4.45 & 10.15 pm | Signature Mall : 12.20 pm | Legacy Mall : 11.00 am, 3.00 & 10.00 pm

MOVIETIME: Davangere : 10.30 pm Bellary : 1.30 & 10.30 pm.

CINE GALAXY: Surathkkal : 2.45 & 8.00 pm.

INOX: Outer Ring Road : 1.15, 7.30 & 9.00 pm

CINE PHILE: HSR Layout : 2.30 & 8.00 pm

MIRAJ CINEMAS: TGN Lotus Elite, Magadi Road.

ROCKLINE CINEMAS: Jalahalli Cross

Bharath Cinemas: Mangalore : 9.30 am, 1.00, 5.15, 8.00 & 10.15 pm | Kundapura : 2.15 & 7.30 pm | Manipal : 1.30, 4.45 & 7.30 pm | Shimoga : 12.30 & 5.30 pm | Puttur : 10.00 am, 4.15 & 10.00 pm | Padubidri : 1.30 am & 10.00 pm | Udupi : 1.30 am & 15 pm pm

DRC CINEMAS: Mysore : 7.15 & 10.00 pm.

ABHINAY THEATRE: K.G.Road.

SRINIVASA: SG PALYA : 1.00 & 7.00

RR THEATRE: Bellary.

and other cinemas.

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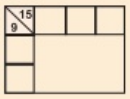
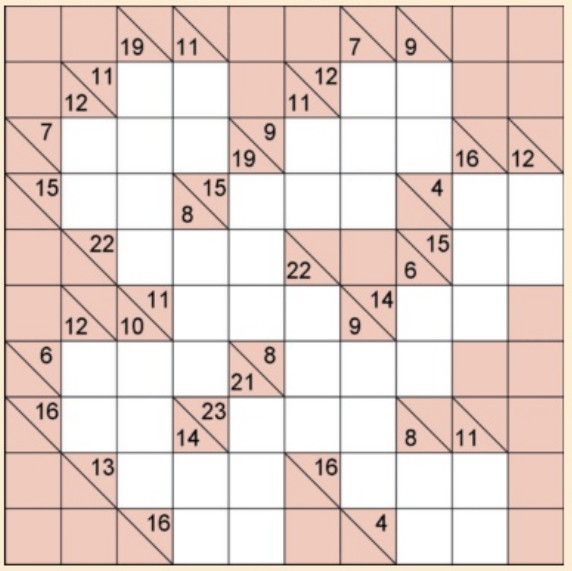
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

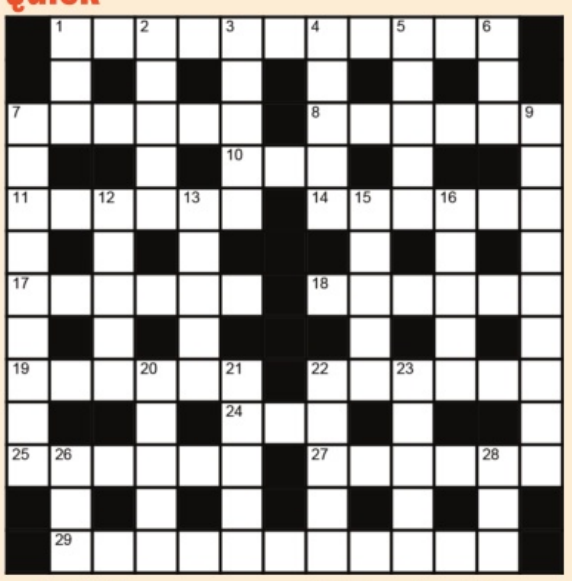


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Show (11)
7 Considered (6)
8 Institution for medical care (6)
10 Pakistan's intelligence agency (3)
11 Visible floating moisture? (6)
14 Make journeys (6)
17 Disembark (3,3)
18 Sentries (6)
19 Riches (6)
22 Remove from office (6)
24 Rowing device (3)
25 Greek god of music and poetry (6)
27 Bollywood's ___ Kher (6)
29 Absolutely and utterly simple? (2,4,2,3)

DOWN

1 Colouring material (3)
2 Ballroom dance–"am mob" anagram? (5)
3 The lowest point (5)
4 Unspoken (5)
5 In at a change for a girl's name? (5)
6 Inventor Whitney (3)
7 Former Karnataka Chief Minister who went on to become Prime Minister of India (4,5)
9 Roman amphitheatre (9)
12 Ruined city in Jordan (5)
13 Not suitable (5)
15 Choice of roads (5)
16 Left-hand page (5)
20 Town 60 miles inland from Calais (5)
21 Catchy parts of songs (5)
22 Play (5)
23 Pleasantly overweight (5)
26 Pulse vegetable (3)
28 Wonder or dread (3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: M EQUALS T

MQR PGJKUL KW MQR PKFWM RWWRAMKGU DRUU BP QXJGA WBDKRML.

Linemaro

Do you come with coffee and cream? You're my sugar

Mindchow

When you talk to god, it's prayer, but when god talks to you, it's schizophrenia

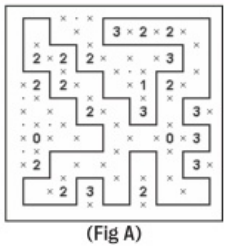
Joke of the day

Not all chemicals are bad. Without chemicals such as hydrogen and oxygen, for example, there would be no way to make water, a vital ingredient in beer

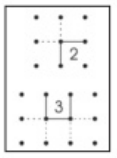
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

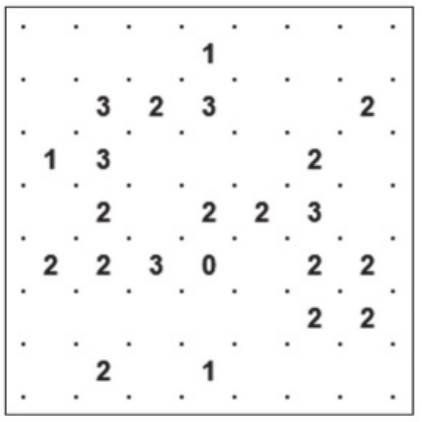


(Fig B) Not Allowed

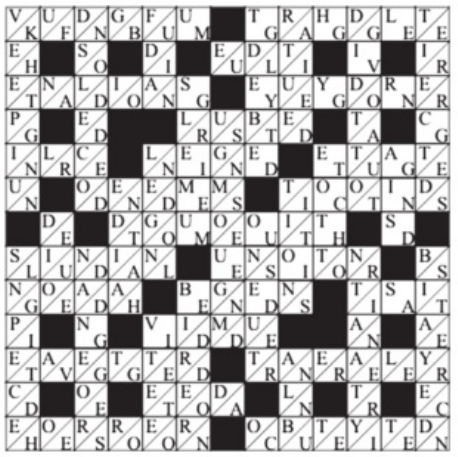
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



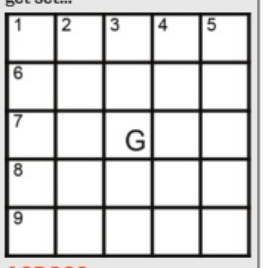
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

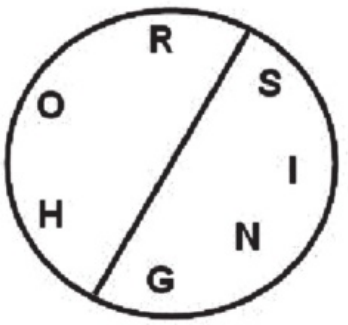
1 Pests; 6 Agree; 7 I grid; 8 Organ; 9 Rt way

DOWN

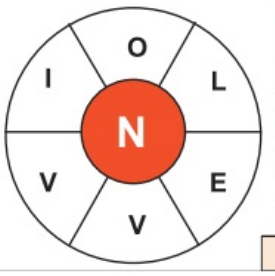
1 Worse; 2 Raita; 3 Gager; 4 N trip; 5 Edgy S

Mensapuzzle

Solve this rebus:



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 10 Good; 12 Outstanding

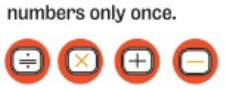
SudokuChallenge

4			8		1			5
1			9	6	5			3
		6				1		
	2		3		7		1	
				9				
	4		6		8		3	
		7				2		
6			1	7	3			4
5			2		9			6

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 9
4 5 5 5

Medium = 18
1 2 6 9

Hard = 2
3 6 6 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

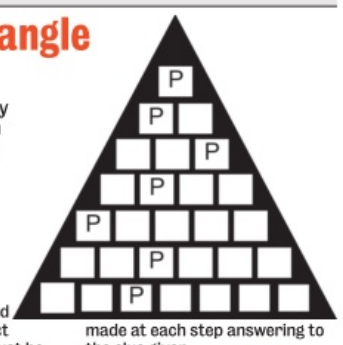
Differences: 1. Man is thinner. 2. Mailbox is lower. 3. Stepping stone is moved. 4. Roof is different. 5. Patch is moved. 6. Window border is added.

Riddler

Good with locks, yet has no keys, Handy when you want to tease. From on high to the very end, The disorder it seeks to mend. Not for paint, has no teeth, To a tangled mop, it brings relief. What is it?

Alpha triangle

1 Parking sign
2 Dad
3 Grammy category
4 Practice pugilism
5 Capital of France
6 Eagerly wish
7 Fixes

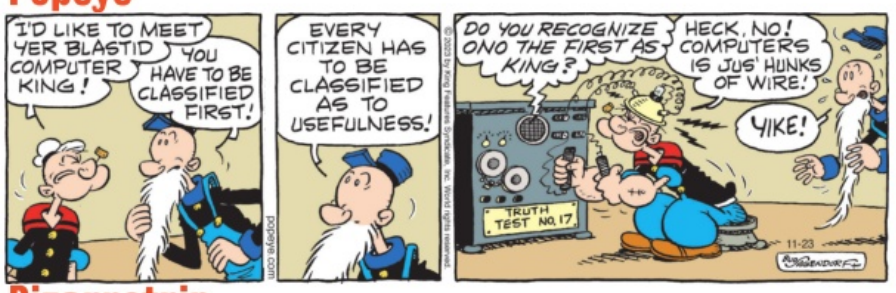


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

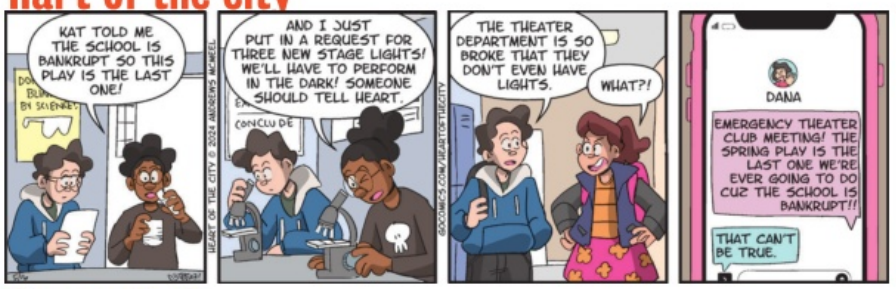
Popeye


I'D LIKE TO MEET YER BLASTID COMPUTER KING!
YOU HAVE TO BE CLASSIFIED FIRST!
EVERY CITIZEN HAS TO BE CLASSIFIED AS TO USEFULNESS!
DO YOU RECOGNIZE ONO THE FIRST AS KING?
HECK, NO! COMPUTERS IS JUS' HUNKS OF WIRE!
YIKE!
TRUTH TEST NO. 17
11-23

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


KAT TOLD ME THE SCHOOL IS BANKRUPT SO THIS PLAY IS THE LAST ONE!
AND I JUST PUT IN A REQUEST FOR THREE NEW STAGE LIGHTS! WE'LL HAVE TO PERFORM IN THE DARK! SOMEONE SHOULD TELL HEART.
THE THEATER DEPARTMENT IS SO BROKE THAT THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE LIGHTS.
WHAT?!
DANA
EMERGENCY THEATER CLUB MEETING! THE SPRING PLAY IS THE LAST ONE WE'RE EVER GOING TO DO CUZ THE SCHOOL IS BANKRUPT!!
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE.

Crankshaft

YOU WANT TO HOLD THE PREMIERE OF THE THIRD STARBUCK JONES MOVIE HERE AT THE VALENTINE?
THAT'S GOING TO TAKE A LOT OF WORK... HIRING A TON OF EXTRA HELP...
I DON'T KNOW... I REALLY NEED TO THINK ABOUT...
IGNORE HIM! WE'D LOVE TO!
5-15
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

THE THREE LITTLE KITTENS FOUND THEIR MITTENS, AND THEY BEGAN TO CRY, "OH, MOTHER DEAR, SEE HERE, SEE HERE, OUR MITTENS WE HAVE FOUND.
" WHAT! FOUND YOUR MITTENS, YOU GOOD LITTLE KITTENS, THEN YOU SHALL HAVE SOME PIE."
YESH!
XYZ.
TEACH, SHISTER, TEACH!
5-15

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may feel negativity around you, which may make you unhappy. You are advised to avoid making investments in worthless assets. You may also notice that friends and people around you may not be supportive today. You are advised not to expect more from anyone in terms of help, otherwise it may make you nervous. It is advised to make independent decisions today.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may not be able to present yourself logically. You may have a dull feeling, which may give you a lack of confidence. You need to follow your intuition while making decisions in terms of investment. People around you may not be cooperative in terms of routine work. You are advised to be careful in eating unhealthy food to avoid stomach issues.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are likely to be more excited due to the cooperation of your family and friends. You may plan to renovate your house or bring souvenirs to maintain your standard, which may increase your social status. You may expect an increase in your fixed assets.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today is a good day in terms of gains and profits. You may get results with less effort. Your losses may convert into profits with the help of your wisdom. You may plan to upgrade yourself by doing academic courses. You may donate to a religious place or charity. You may also help needy people. Some investment into intellectual assets may be possible. Students may do better.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may feel dull, or you may have some health-related issues. Chronic disease may reappear. You are advised to avoid rash driving. You are advised to avoid conflicts with the business partner. Avoid making important decisions in terms of business. Investments in business or work are advised to be postponed. With the blessings from elders, by the late evening, things may be under control.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may be blessed by your destiny, your postponed projects may be started now, with the help of the elder's blessings, the messy situation is now under control. Disputes between family members may likely be resolved, which may increase domestic harmony. Your creativity may be improved. You may be attracted by glamour.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today is a good day, you are enthusiastic today. With the help of focus, you may perform well in business and work. Your boss may be supportive, you may get some new responsibilities in terms of promotion. There may be visits to religious places. it is advised to avoid arrogance in your love life.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you are blessed by the moon, your destiny is with you, and your postponed projects are likely to be started now. You may have the elder's blessings, which may help you to come out from the messy situation. Domestic harmony may make you happy after resolving disputes between family members.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, your moon is not in a good position, you may feel dull and have health issues. You may face losses in this period. It is advised not to invest in risky assets. Your gains may likely convert into losses. You should stop investing in worthless objects. You should avoid being involved in controversies, otherwise it may pull you down negatively.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you are blessed by the moon. Love would be in the air in terms of personal life. Singles may find a suitable match. You may do better in terms of professional life. Your friends and subordinate staff may likely support you.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may have confidence which may reflect in your way of working. You are in the winning position in terms of opponents and enemies. You may be focused towards your goals. Health issues may be good. In domestic life, try to avoid unnecessary arguments, it may affect your domestic harmony.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You may be happy due to a blessing from the auspicious planetary combination. You may have positive energy around you. You may spend your time studying intellectual stuff. You might plan for higher studies. You will also plan to visit religious places.

KIDZONE

Bhaghwan SS, 7 Years, Bishop Cotton Boys School

Ramya Murthy, 8 Years, Ashoka International School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
√36 = 6
√64 = 8
√100 = 10
6+8+10=24
√169=13
√81 = 9
(13-9)! = 24
24/24 = 1

BULL'S EYE
envoi, INVOLVE, lien, line, lion, liven, loin, lone, novel, oven, vein, vine

STRIKE OUT

FAST FIVE

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
No horsing around

RIDDLER
A hairbrush

QUOTE UNCODE
The family is the first essential cell of human society.

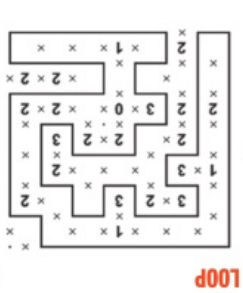
SUDOKU

5	1	4	2	8	9	3	7	6
6	8	2	1	7	3	9	5	4
9	3	7	4	5	6	2	8	1
7	4	9	6	1	8	5	3	2
3	6	1	5	9	2	8	4	7
8	2	5	3	4	7	6	1	9
2	5	6	7	3	4	1	9	8
1	7	8	9	6	5	4	2	3
4	9	3	8	2	1	7	6	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
P, Pa, Rap, Spar, Paris, Aspire, Repairs.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 – 5 + 5 + 5 = 9
Medium
9 + 2 + 6 + 1 = 18
Hard
5 – 3 – 6 + 6 = 2

LOOP



KAKURO

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Just for laughs

Sharvari reveals what genre of film she is looking forward to being a part of

Actor Sharvari, who was most recently seen in action thriller 'Vedaa', says she would love to be part of an out-an-out comedy film. The actor made her debut with Kabir Khan's war drama series 'The Forgotten Army - Azaadi Ke Liye' in 2020. She has since starred in films such as crime comedy 'Bunty Aur Babli 2', horror comedy 'Munjya', and period drama 'Maharaj'.

Sharvari said comedy is one genre that holds a special place in her heart. "My favourite genre is comedy, I love comedy films like 'Andaz Apna Apna', 'Hera Pheri', 'De Dana Dan', and others. I love comedy films and that's the cinema I used to love. I hope someday I'm able to do some superb comedies as well," the 27-year-old told PTI in an interview.

Sharvari said she wants to challenge herself by playing diverse characters.

"I want to be part of films when audiences sit in a theatre and forget that 'I'm Sharvari' or they come out saying, 'I didn't expect this from Sharvari'. I'm greedy and hungry for different roles and dialects...

"I hope to be part of a lot of films that can inspire generations and whenever I come on screen, I'm able to make people laugh, cry or motivate people."

As a college student, the Mumbai-born actor said she would bunk classes to catch the latest movies of her favourite stars at the Matunga-based theatre, including Salman Khan-starrer 'Wanted' and 'The Harry Potter' film franchise.

"I was here to watch 'Wanted', and there was a houseful board here. When we would not get the tickets, we would've to wait for the next show to start. Now, seeing my film here... It's too nice," she said.

Sharvari said she is delighted with the response to 'Vedaa', which released on August 15. Also starring John Abraham, the movie opened at Rs 6.75 crore in India.

"I've got a small filmography but this film is something I'm extremely proud of because I feel that we've made a film to start a conversation in society and conversation will only lead to change. The first step is for people to watch these films and start a conversation," she said.

Inspired by real incidents, 'Vedaa' explores deep-rooted caste discrimination in Indian society. In the film, directed by Nikkhil Advani, she plays the titular role with John essaying the character of former Army Major and her mentor Abhimanyu Kanwar. **-PTI**

Feeling proud

Parineeti Chopra, who is also a part of the film 'Uunchai', is proud of director Sooraj R Barjatya and actor Neena Gupta for winning the National Awards.

Taking to Instagram story on Saturday, Parineeti shared the film's poster along with Sooraj and Neena's achievement.

Sharing the post, she wrote, "Proud."

Sooraj R Barjatya bagged the Best Director award for 'Uunchai'.

Neena Gupta added another glory to her remarkable career by winning the National Award for Best Supporting Actress for her performance in the movie.

70th National Film Awards winners were announced on Friday in the national capital. The jury includes - Rahul Rawail, Chairperson of the Feature Film Jury; Nila Madhab Panda, Chairperson of the Non-Feature Film Jury; Gangadhar Mudalair, Chairperson of the Best Writing on Cinema Jury.

'Uunchai' tells the story of the friendship between Boman Irani, Amitabh, Danny Denzongpa and Anupam Kher's characters. It also stars Neena Gupta, Sarika, and Parineeti Chopra in lead roles. **-ANI**

Strike a pose

Actress Malavika Mohanan, who is receiving a lot of good response for her recently released Tamil film 'Thangalaan', shared an unseen BTS picture from the making of the film.

The actress took to her Instagram on Sunday, and shared the picture with her co-star Chiyaan Vikram.

The picture shows them fully drenched in blood, both actors exude sheer intensity and rage, perfectly capturing the fervour of the film.

The actress wrote in the caption, "How crazy can you go for a role? Us, Thangalaan & Aarathi".

'Thangalaan' tells the story of Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) when KGF was discovered by the British who exploited and looted it for their own purpose.

The film has garnered great response from all quarters with the audience being truly mesmerised by Malavika Mohanan's performance as Aarathi.

The actress has made a strong impact with this distinct character and is completely nailing it. Amid the film's amazing run in theatres, Malavika delighted fans by sharing an unseen still of herself with Chiyaan Vikram from Thangalaan. **-IANS**

Gig sneak peek

Singer-songwriter Katy Perry, who is known for songs like 'Dark Horse', 'Last Friday Night', 'Roar' and others, has shared a glimpse of her rehearsal for her upcoming gig.

The singer-songwriter took to her Instagram recently, and shared a video in which she could be seen grooving to the song 'Lifetimes' along with her crew of dancers.

She wrote in the caption, "#LIFETIMES with my boys at rehearsals". Katy is set to perform in West Hollywood, California on August 23. After this she will embark on her Brazil tour.

Recently, the singer-songwriter came under the scanner of the Spanish government after it was alleged that the video of her song 'Lifetimes' was filmed at a restricted location in Spain. A government agency in Spain claimed that the production company behind the song did not have clearance to film on location.

The Balearic Islands' Ministry of Agriculture released a statement and alleged that the 'Lifetimes' music video was filmed without a permit at Ses Salines Natural Park, which is located between the islands of Ibiza and Formentera off the coast of Spain. The video shows her riding on a motorcycle on a beach and dancing in a nightclub. 'Lifetimes' is the 2nd single from her upcoming album, '143'. While this is not an environmental crime, filming in the area is prohibited without authorisation.

Earlier, she exited the singing reality show 'American Idol'. **-IANS**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

About a stand-up comic

Gurunandan of First Rank Raju fame has graduated as a producer with a yet-to-be-titled movie that went on floors a few days ago. Its muhurat function recently where Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar sounded the clapboard. Sumanth Gowda debuts as a director in Sandalwood with this film.

"I am happy to get Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar as the chief guest for the function. Her words of encouragement have motivated me. I consider it as a blessing for my journey as a director in Sandalwood," said Gowda.

Elaborating on the script, Gowda said it is about a stand-up comedian. "No movie has been made about a stand-up comedian in Kannada till now. It is based on true incidents and its shooting will be held in and around Bengaluru. We have already completed a three-day schedule and the shooting will re-commence from Monday for 12 days," said the director.

"Gurunandan, apart from playing the lead, is bankrolling the movie under the Mandi Mane Talkies. Talks are on with Rangayana Raghu to have him on board," he said.

The movie features Tapaswini Poonacha, Dharmanna and others.

Sights of Europe

Hani Hani, a music album billed as the first Kannada music album to be shot in Europe, was released by Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar. Raghava Reddy has directed the album while Vishal Naidruv has scored the music. Rakky Suresh, Anamika Dutta, and Amrita Mandal have acted in the video.

Ashwini said that Rakky Suresh is a well-wisher of her family. "Rakky Suresh has acted well in the video song. The video song is good," she said. Rakky Suresh said he is the grandson of Rajasekhar who is one of the producers of the film Hosabalku in which Dr Rajkumar played the lead. "I was born at Saligrama near Mysuru but brought up in Germany. I thank Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar for launching the video," he said.

Director Raghava Reddy said that he has been in Germany for the last five years. "This video is bankrolled by a few NRIs and me at around Rs 15 lakh. Its shooting was held in Europe. Music lovers can watch it on Point Blank Creations YouTube Channel," he said.